

















Technical Bulletin #51:

Common Technical Names in Agriculture




There are numerous technical terms in modern agriculture that are necessary for you to understand. This list contains many of these terms that you should familiarize yourself with.

Word or Name	Description	Examples
Air valve	Part of a drip system used to take the air out of the system to make it work more efficiently.	
Bar	Is a metric unit of pressure that is used to tell the amount of pressure.	Used to check the pressure of a drip system. The equipment to measure pressure is called a pressure gauge.
Briquette	Is a mix of different fertilizers compressed into a small grain.	
DAP	Di Ammonium Phosphate is a fertilizer that contains 18% Nitrogen and 46% Phosphorous.	N-P-K = 18-46-0
Drip System	Is a set of different components (pipes, water pump, drip lines, drippers, connectors, valves, etc.) used to bring water in a very efficient way from the water source to the field.	
Grams (g)	Is a metric system unit of mass. 1,000 grams equals one Kilogram.	
Hectare (Ha)	Is a metric unit of area defined as 10,000 square meters.	
KCI	Fertilizer containing 60% potassium.	N-P-K = 0-0-60
Kilogram (Kg)	Weight unit, equal to 1,000 grams.	
Limestone	Calcium carbonate, used in agriculture as a soil ammendment to correct acidic soils.	
Liter (L)	Volume unit equal to 1,000 ml or cc.	

Square meter (M²)	Area unit consisting of an area 100cm by 100cm.	One Hectare has 10,000 square meters.
Cubic meter (M³)	This is a volume unit that measures the volume of a material with edges 1m high, 1m wide and 1m deep.	One M ³ is the equivalent to 1,000 liters.
Magnifying glass	Is a convex lens that can magnify the image of any object.	In agriculture it is mainly used to check pest and diseases.
Micro tubing	Is a very thin plastic tube used to deliver water in a drip system (also called spaghetti system).	
Mulch	Any material used to cover the soil, especially raised beds. In Cambodia we use plastic mulch but also rice straw mulch.	
Nursery	Usually is a wooden stand where we put the seed trays to grow the seedlings that we will eventually transplant to our farm. It may have a structure to cover the seedlings in case of rain.	
pH	Refers to the level of acidity or alkalinity of any substance. In agriculture we need to know the pH of our soil and the water used to irrigate or spray.	Acid = lemon juice Alkaline = baking soda or limestone
pH Metter	Instrument used to measure acidity or alkalinity of any substance; we mainly use to check the water pH to be used for spraying.	
Pressure gauge	It is a very important instrument in a drip system (also called pressurized system), that measures the internal pressure inside the pipes when pumping water.	
Ring filter	These are the type of filters we use in our commercial drip systems to prevent the drippers from clogging. They must be cleaned two or three times per week.	

Root system	Is the part of a plant that usually is under the soil surface and is the part that takes the nutrients up from the soil.	
Sand or gravel filter	Big filters filled with fine gravel to catch any major impurity in our irrigation water to protect the drippers from clogging.	
Seed tray	Usually plastic trays each containing between 80 to 120 cell or plugs and used to produce good quality seedlings.	
Soil probe	An instrument used to get soil samples to check types of soils, humidity levels, root growth, etc.	
Trellis net	This is a net used for climbing crops like cucumber, bitter melon, and yard long bean to keep the plants and fruit off the soil and improve quality.	
Under leaf	The downside of a leaf - this is where we will usually find pest and diseases and therefore where we have to spray our agrochemicals.	
Urea	Most common fertilizer to provide Nitrogen needs to almost all crops.	N-P-K = 46-0-0
Back pack sprayer: Pressure and motorized	Is a spraying equipment usually with an air pressure pump and used as a back pack. Some incorporate a small motor to make the droplets finer and more uniform and also to provide a higher pressure to reach further inside the plant foliage.	
Drum seeder	This equipment is used to sow rice seeds in paddies in a uniform and even manner that also limits the amount of seeds needed per paddy area.	



Substrate	Is a mix of different materials such as soil, rice hulls, rice hull ashes, sand, etc. used in the seed trays to grow seedlings.	
Sterilization	Is a method using vapor or boiling water to heat the substrate mix in order to kill weed seeds, fungi, bacteria and nematodes that can damage the young plantlets.	
Raised bed	Part of the soil preparation recommendations by Cambodia HARVEST to mitigate weather conditions and also to allow for better root system development.	

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